CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method of determining a speaker during a conference call in which a plurality of participants are connected by a plurality of lines and a switch, comprising:

5   using a server computer connected to the switch, obtaining a voice print for a participant in a telephone conference; and

using a server computer, comparing the voice print to voice identification data from an incoming line file; and

responsive to a match being made, transmitting the identity of a participant, who is 10 currently speaking to a display.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using the server computer, accessing an incoming line file corresponding to a line having the greatest amplitude.

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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using the server computer, transmitting the identify of a participant, who is currently speaking on a line shared with one or more other participants, to a display.

20   4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting the identity of a participant, who is currently speaking, to a participant computer.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting the identity of a participant, who is currently speaking, to a telephone display

unit;

5   wherein, the determination of the identity of the participant who is currently speaking is

made by matching a voice print to a voice identification field in an incoming line file.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a roster information, including speaker identification from a voice print

10   match, from the server computer to the a telephone display unit.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a roster information, including speaker identification from a voice print

match, from the server computer to the a computer over a network.

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8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a speaker change from the server computer to a participant computer over a

network;

wherein the speaker change was identified by comparison of a voice print to a voice

20   identification field for an incoming line file.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a speaker change from the server computer to a telephone display unit;

wherein the speaker change was identified by comparison of a voice print to a voice identification field for an incoming line file.

5   10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using an amplitude acquisition program in the memory of the server computer, determining whether there is an incoming line with an amplitude greater than a threshold amplitude; and

responsive to a determination that there is an incoming line with an amplitude greater

10   than a threshold amplitude, storing the amplitude for the incoming line.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using the server computer, averaging amplitude samples for each incoming line with amplitude data; and

15   storing the average amplitude for each line with amplitude data in a field of an incoming line file.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using a participant computer, displaying a roster information, including speaker

20   identification wherein the speaker was identified by comparison of the speaker's voice print to a voice identification field in an incoming line file.

13. An apparatus for determining a speaker during a telephone call on in which a plurality of parties are involved, comprising:

a server computer;

a first storage medium in the server computer;

5 a program residing in the first storage medium;

a switch connected to a plurality of lines and to the server computer;

wherein the program causes the server computer to:

acquire a voice print for a conference call participant;

store the voice print in the first storage medium;

10 responsive to obtaining a current voice print from a conference call participant, comparing the voice print in memory to the current voice print; and

responsive to a match being made between the voice print and the current voice print, transmitting the identity of the conference call participant to a display.

15 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the storage medium further comprises a conference call list file.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the storage medium further comprises a participant list file.

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16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the storage medium further comprises a conference call information file.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the storage medium further comprises an incoming line list file.

5   18.   The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the program identifies the incoming line with the participant who is speaking by determining a conference call line with the greatest amplitude.

19. A computer readable memory for causing a server computer to identify a speaking participant in a conference call when a plurality of participants are using the same line

10   comprising:

       a voice identification acquisition program; and

       a voice print identification program.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the voice amplitude acquisition

15   program obtains a voice sample from a conference call participant, analyzes the voice sample and prepares a voice print, and stores the voice print derived from the voice sample.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the voice amplitude display program obtains a current voice print for a participant who is speaking, compares the current voice print

20   to a voice identification field in an incoming line file, and, responsive to a match begin made, identifies the participant who is speaking by a link from the voice identification field to a participant information file.